



## 2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant Program

Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
One North Capitol Ave, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
[www.in.gov/isda](http://www.in.gov/isda)



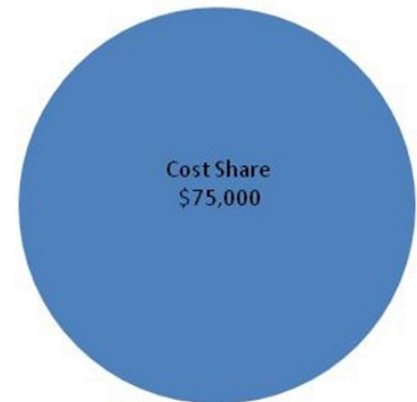
LEAD DISTRICT: DAVIESS  
COLLABORATING DISTRICTS: MARTIN,  
PIKE  
PROJECT NAME: GRAZING FOR SOIL  
HEALTH!  
PROJECT DATES: 5/1/2015-4/30/2017  
PROJECT AMOUNT: \$75,000

### Purpose: Using cover crops to improve soil health

Daviess, Martin and Pike counties are focusing on utilizing cover crops to improve soil health in croplands associated with grazing livestock. Additional forage gives producers an excellent incentive to plant cover crops in their row crop rotations, thereby decreasing top soil loss due to erosion and increasing soil organic matter. Livestock enhance soil biology by recycling nutrients they graze back to the soil through a natural application of ruminant manure. This approach helps further close nutrient cycles and reduces the need for off the farm nutrient inputs.

Several area farmers currently graze corn stalks with cattle and are interested in establishing cover crops to improve soil health and minimize erosion while supplementing their grazing operation. Cover crops after corn also help relieve the compaction that may be caused by grazing corn stalks without cover crops while building a better environment for soybeans. The fall and spring grazing takes pressure off overused feed lots, where nutrient runoff would be likely to occur.

PARTNERS FOR THE PROJECT INCLUDE:  
WHITE RIVER CO-OP, NRCS, BYRON SEEDS,  
DAVIESS, MARTIN, AND PIKE COUNTY PURDUE  
EXTENSION OFFICES, GROWING IN THE  
HEARTLAND, WYATT SEED, TRAYLOR'S  
FERTILIZER, DAVIESS COUNTY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, FARM BUREAU,  
AND PRAIRIE FARMS



Byron Seeds will sponsor a producer plot to help demonstrate the value of cover crops and host a field day.

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

The CWI fund is administered by the Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. CWI also contributes critical state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land.

Furthermore, the CWI Program has supported the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which focuses on management systems approach to crop production which results in improved soil and water quality as well as profitability on Indiana cropland.

During state fiscal year 2015, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded 14 Clean Water Indiana grants totaling \$1,020,900. Grant funds can be used for Cost Share Incentives, Technical Assistance, and Adult Education (maximum of \$1,000 per year).